

City of Gaithersburg

COMMUNIQUE

City Rallies Support for CCT

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City Rallies Support for CCT



On October 23 Mayor Sidney Katz, Council Members Alster, Marraffa, Sesma and Schlichting, City Manager David Humpton and other City staff joined dozens of legislators, business leaders and community activists from around the region to launch an awareness and support campaign for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). With a rallying cry of “It’s Good to Go,” elected officials at all levels urged citizens to vocally support this planned light rail transitway.

“Congestion on I-270 has reached intolerable levels, and this project is part of the solution that needs to be implemented now,” said Mayor Katz to a crowd assembled at the Shady Grove Metro Station.

Dating back to the 1964 General Plan for Montgomery County, the CCT is a light

rail system that links the Shady Grove Metro Red Line Station to Clarksburg, with an ultimate extension to Frederick. It is part of the nearly completed I-270/US15 Multi-Modal Corridor Study that includes the widening of I-270. While there has been some discussion of the CCT being built as a bus rapid transit, Gaithersburg officials firmly believe that the light rail option will have significantly higher ridership and will prove to be more economical in the long run.

Gaithersburg has unanimously supported the CCT for over twenty years, and it has been accommodated in all of the City’s land use decisions over that period. The entire CCT Alignment throughout the City of Gaithersburg is available for construction at no cost to the State.

Additionally, there is land available for the four anticipated stations in Gaithersburg, and more than 1,000 total



Mayor Katz urges citizen support for the CCT.

CITY OFFICIALS

GAITHERSBURG

Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

Council Vice President
Stanley J. Alster

Council Members
Geri Edens
Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.
John B. Schlichting
Michael A. Sesma

City Manager
David B. Humpton

The Communiqué,
a newsletter for the
City of Gaithersburg,
is produced by the:

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Gaithersburg City Hall
31 S. Summit Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
301-258-6310
www.gaithersburgmd.gov

commuter parking spaces have already been planned for the Metropolitan Grove Road and Crown Farm stations.

“We need our residents to contact state transportation officials to push for this project now,” said Mayor Katz. “It’s a real solution to reducing congestion on I-270, and we need to keep it front-of-mind so it can become the region’s next mass transit project.”

Contact the State of Maryland Department of Transportation at 410-865-1000 or e-mail secretary@mdot.state.md.us to express your support. For more information on the project visit www.cctnow.org ■

Public Input Sought on 2007 Strategic Plan

In advance of their annual retreat on January 20, the Mayor and City Council will be holding a special work session to gather citizen input on the 2007 Strategic Plan. The televised meeting will take place on Monday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Covering everything from transportation planning and public safety to recreation programs and emergency preparedness, Gaithersburg's Strategic Plan helps each department focus resources and measure progress and effectiveness in all areas of operation. Throughout the year the

Mayor and Council receive regular updates on items outlined in the plan.

The January 8 meeting will include a review of the eleven Strategic Directions outlined in the 2006 Plan and will highlight proposed changes for the coming year. To provide a framework for discussion, City staff will also present municipal trends and a financial overview.

"We encourage citizens to come forward with both short and long term goals for Gaithersburg," said City Manager David Humpton. "Through this very open process we hope to identify key issues that the

Mayor and Council can then discuss in-depth at their annual retreat."

Following the retreat the City Manager will finalize the document and present the formal 2007 Strategic Directions at a subsequent Mayor and Council meeting.

A copy of the 2006 Strategic Plan is available on the FY 2007 budget page of the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. The Draft 2007 Strategic Plan will be posted on the website in January. For more information please contact the City Manager's office at 301-258-6310. ■

Overcrowding and Illegal Occupancy – An Issue of Public Safety

In the fall, two fires in overcrowded dwellings, which could have resulted in tragedy, prompted the City of Gaithersburg to form an internal task force to address public awareness and code enforcement surrounding the issues of overcrowding and illegal occupancy.

Similar to that of Montgomery County, Gaithersburg's code prohibits five or more unrelated individuals from occupying the same dwelling unit. Additionally, the number of related individuals who may share the same dwelling unit is limited by the square footage of the unit.

Overcrowding often leads to the use of rooms for which they were not approved. For example, using a room for sleeping purposes that does not have an approved window or exterior door leading directly to the outside is illegal in Gaithersburg. There are additional specifications as to how high off the ground the window can be, and the size of the windows and doors.

Overcrowding can also have negative effects on mental health, has been associated with increased potential for domestic violence, and increases the risk of spreading disease.

"This is first and foremost an issue of public safety," said City Manager David Humpton. "We want to make sure that such things as electrical violations and lack of

proper emergency escape routes don't result in a tragedy that could have been prevented."

The City is undertaking a public awareness campaign, especially focused on ho-

meowner associations and apartment complexes. Educating property owners about

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Mayor and Council Meetings are held the first and third Monday and Work Sessions are held the second and fourth Monday of each month, unless otherwise noted. They begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council Chambers located at City Hall, 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg. Call 301-258-6310 to confirm.

Upcoming Meetings

January 2 (Tuesday) and 16 (Tuesday)
February 5 and 20 (Tuesday)
March 5 and 19
April 9 and 16

Upcoming Work Sessions

January 8, 22 and 29
February 12 and 26
March 12 and 26
April 23 and 30

PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETINGS

Planning Commission Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Meetings

January 3 and 17
February 7 and 28
March 7 and 21
April 4 and 18

A complete list of Mayor and City Council and Planning Commission meetings is available under Calendar of Events at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Meetings can also be viewed live on the City's Cable Channel 13, and via streaming video on the website. Minutes of past meetings are available on the website. For more information call 301-258-6310.

Affordable Housing Now Required in Gaithersburg

In a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council recently passed an affordable housing ordinance requiring that Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs) and Work Force Housing Units (WFHUs) be included in all new residential developments and redevelopments with 20 or more units.

“While, on average, housing in Gaithersburg has traditionally been more affordable than other parts of Montgomery County, we recognize that many of our residents are being priced out of our community,” said Council Vice President Stanley J. Alster. “This new ordinance will help us ensure that those who want to live in Gaithersburg can do so, regardless of their economic status.”

Based on annually published figures, it is anticipated that 15% of all new homeownership and rental units will be affordable to households earning between 60 and 120% of Area Median Income (AMI). The units will be available to persons living or working in the City, with priority awarded to full-time City employees, employees of K-12 schools in Montgomery County, and to law enforcement personnel, Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighters with some jurisdiction in Gaithersburg.

MPDU rental units will be priced to be affordable to households earning 60% of AMI. For example, using 2006 figures, rent on a new two-bedroom unit would be \$959 a month and \$1,072 for a three-bedroom unit. Average rents in Gaithersburg are currently \$1,118 and \$1,342 for two- and three-bedroom apartments. Prices of



for-sale MPDUs will be based on the number of bedrooms in a unit as well as on the number of people per household. At 2006 figures, a one-bedroom unit would sell for approximately \$158,000, a two bedroom unit would be priced at approximately \$179,000, and a four-bedroom unit at \$219,000. To qualify, households must earn between 60 and 80% of AMI.

WFHUs will be available in homeownership units only, and, at 2006 income levels, would be priced between \$230,000 for a two-bedroom unit and \$281,400 for a single family detached unit. Currently, the average sale price of a unit in Gaithersburg is \$400,000. Qualifying households can earn no more than 120% of AMI.

The Olde Towne Central Business District will be exempt from the requirements of this law, but developers will be obligated to pay a per-unit fee for every new residential unit constructed there. The revenues generated from this fee will be directed to an affordable housing fund to ensure that additional affordable units are available within the City.

The Mayor and Council held a public hearing on the proposed administrative regulations on December 18, 2006, with final adoption anticipated in early January. For more information please contact the Gaithersburg City Manager's Office at 301-258-6310. ■

Gaithersburg Joins Inclusive Communities Partnership

Affirming its commitment to inclusion as a fundamental aspect of our community, the Mayor and City Council recently adopted a resolution to join the Partnership for Working Toward Inclusive Communities, an initiative of the National League of Cities.

This partnership, comprised of 105 partners in 33 states, offers Gaithersburg the opportunity to publicize its programs and services that promote inclusion, fairness, citizen participation, equal opportunity, and engagement. Further, the partnership provides a mechanism for sharing

valuable insights, experiences and lessons-learned among participating towns and cities.

For more information on this initiative contact the Human Services Division at 301-258-6395. ■

Overcrowding and Illegal Occupancy – An Issue of Public Safety

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occupancy regulations and encouraging residents to alert the City to potentially dangerous situations are key components of the campaign.

A special electronic tip line has been established to field concerns. “The City diligently enforces its codes,” said Neighborhood Services Director Kevin Roman. “When we receive a complaint, code inspectors quickly follow up to ensure the safety of everyone involved.” Send an e-mail to overcrowding@gaithersburgmd.gov, or call Neighborhood Services at 301-258-6340 if you have questions about the regulations or are concerned about a dwelling in your neighborhood. You may contact anonymously if you choose. ■



This is an example of an approved window for a basement sleeping area.



This window violates code. It is too small and too high off the ground

General Fire Safety Tips

City code requires that smoke detectors be installed and maintained in operable condition in every bedroom and sleeping area, hallways or other area in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms and sleeping areas, and on every level of the dwelling.

Other safety tips to keep in mind...

- Properly discard of smoking materials
- Do NOT smoke in bed
- Test smoke detectors monthly and change batteries annually
- Give space-heaters their space (at least a three foot radius or more if stated so in manufacturer's specifications)
- Keep combustibles away from heat sources
- Unplug appliances when not in use

Kitchen Safety

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep a lid handy (cover, remove from heat)
- Never put water on a grease fire

Candles

- Never leave burning candles unattended
- Only use candles with substantial noncombustible base/container
- Gel Candles – recalled – don't use them

Electricity

- Don't overload circuits (“power strips” & extension cords)
- Use extension cords as temporary power only. Do NOT run under rugs/furniture.

- Halogen lamps get VERY hot – keep them away from combustibles

In the Event of a Fire...

- Call 911
- Close all doors to separate the fire from other areas
- Only attempt to put it out if you have training and feel certain you can handle it (don't forget to call 911 first)
- Crawl low in smoke
- Feel doors for heat before you open them
- If trapped, hang something out the window
- Place towels or bed linens under doors to block smoke

The Race to Beat the Snow

This is the first in a series of profiles about City departments and employees.

by Jeanne North

Before the snow even begins to fall, when the air is icy cold and damp and skies are dark, the telephone rings. Bob Johnson, who has been keeping an eye on the

Bob Johnson, a City employee for 33 years, has the longest tenure of the 65 full time employees at the Gaithersburg Public Works Department. Many will be notified



Bob Johnson explains plowing procedures to the author.

weather, already knows who's calling. It's his supervisor, Wally DeBord, with word that snow—or ice, or sleet—is on the way.

via telephone tree that the AccuWeather forecast has put Gaithersburg in the path of a storm. Depending on its intensity, dif-



Plows are ready for mounting on city trucks.

ferent crews report immediately for duty, with as many as 40 hooking up plows and rolling out to clear the City streets.

At a practice drill in October workers checked out equipment, putting plows on the trucks to be sure everything worked. “We expect everybody to be a plow truck driver,” says Wally DeBord, Public Works Operations Director. “It’s on-the-job training. We’ll spend a couple of days with classroom-type instruction, then it’s in a truck. One snow they’ll observe, but by the second snow they’ll usually get some driving time.”

DeBord has contracts with two weather services, one a notification service. “If there is any chance of any kind of weather event,” he says, “they will call me, usually 24 to 48 hours in advance, just to let me know there’s something out there. By the time we get within 12 hours of the event, I have an idea what to expect.” If no prearranged time has been set for people to come in, or if the forecast changes, DeBord sets the telephone tree in motion.

“ Depending on its intensity, different crews report immediately for duty, with as many as 40 hooking up plows and rolling out to clear the City streets. ”

Though snow removal is perhaps only 5% of the total workload of the Department, the importance of it can't be overstated. “I wouldn't be doing my fellows any justice,” says DeBord, “if I didn't mention that snow removal is very demanding. They often work as many as 24 to 36 hours with minimal rest.” Workers sleep on cots, in their trucks, wherever.

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PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF

Director:	Jim Arnoult
Mission:	“To improve the quality of life in the City, maintaining and preserving the City’s infrastructure, parks and facilities in an attractive and safe condition.”
Location:	800 Rabbitt Road, Gaithersburg 301-258-6370 publicworks@gaitthersburgmd.gov
What They Do:	The department is in charge of maintaining all City facilities including custodial services, utilities, repairs and service contracts for all major equipment and overseeing design and construction of new facilities. Engineering functions include reviews of storm water management, sediment control, storm drainage, paving, and site plans for new developments. The department’s engineering staff administers capital improvement projects (CIP) for road and storm drain projects. Services provided include snow removal, street sweeping, repair and maintenance of streets, sidewalks and storm drains, beautification of the City’s streets, public buildings and parks, recycling, City vehicle maintenance, and storm water management.
Equipment:	65 major pieces plus mowers and trimmers
FY 2007 Budget:	\$10.9 million (54% for personnel, 39% operating, 7% capital outlay)

Snow Emergencies – Know Your Responsibility

- When a snow emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from snow emergency routes.
- Vehicles parked in violation may be ticketed and towed at owner’s expense.
- Residents and business owners must remove snow and ice from public sidewalks abutting their property within 12 hours of the last precipitation.
- Snow from plow trucks may occasionally end upon on sidewalks. You may want to wait until the plow truck has passed for the final time before you clear your sidewalk.
- Review Gaithersburg’s snow removal information under the Public Works Department at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.
- Questions? Contact the Public Works Department at 301-258-6370 or e-mail publicworks@gaitthersburgmd.gov.
- Need help with snow removal? The Montgomery County Volunteer Center activates a matching system during snow emergencies for the elderly and disabled. To volunteer or to be put on a list for assistance, call the Center at 240-777-2600.

Recycling Your Tree Helps the Environment

Your holiday tree can give new life to other plants once it’s chipped for mulch and compost by Gaithersburg’s Public Works Department. Pick-up service is offered free to City residents.

- Put trees out curbside next to your green recycling bin on your regular recycling day
- Last pick up date is January 31
- Trees must be in their natural state
- Remove all decorations, including tinsel and angel hair
- Be sure there is no metal attached to the tree
- Do not wrap trees in plastic
- Artificial trees will not be recycled
- Trees with root balls will not be recycled
- Trees will only be picked up from your residence. Do not take the trees to other sites such as schools or public buildings.

For details please visit the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov, or contact the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370.

THE MAYOR

This is the first in a series of articles profiling Gaithersburg's elected officials.

by Jeanne North

Mayor Katz gets to his store on East Diamond Avenue in Gaithersburg at about 8 a.m. There's a lot to do: process bills, follow up on orders, field telephone calls. Wolfson's still has the ambience of an old-fashioned department store, with wide uncluttered aisles and an authentic tin ceiling.

Here the Mayor is not "the Mayor" but Sidney A. Katz, businessman. He has worked in this store, which was started by his grandparents, since he was 12 years old. In its early days Wolfson's was a general store that sold toys, buttons, oilcloth, hats, men's and women's clothing – everything but groceries. Now, he says, "We're pretty much a men's clothing store."

Much as he likes hanging out at his store and conducting his business, there are obligations that go with being the Mayor of one of the largest cities in Maryland. On many occasions he performs ceremonial functions, such as addressing the jam-packed stock trading room at Gaithersburg High School one recent Monday morning, where students and teachers of the school's Academy of Finance had gathered with dignitaries for a press conference to announce the new venture.

Next stop on that day was an electric store in Rockville to pick up new light fixtures for the windows of his store. Then, lunch in Olde Towne with his brother Allen, a lawyer whose office is just down the street from Wolfson's, and some schmoozing with people who drop by his table. More business work at the store, and then off to Darnestown Elementary School to read a Thanksgiving story to a class of fourth graders.



Mayor Katz in the department store started by his grandparents.

“ Mayor Katz has been involved in City government for 30 years. Encouraged by friends, he started going to Council meetings at age 26. ”

Katz spends the rest of the afternoon at the store and that evening faces the most demanding part of the day: conducting the City Council meeting. Following routine business comes a public hearing on the proposed anti-solicitation ordinance. Passions run high, and through it all, the Mayor keeps the agenda on track and behavior under control.

Katz has been involved in City government for 30 years. Encouraged by friends, he started going to Council meetings at age 26, then served on the Planning Commission. He was elected to the City Council in 1978, where he served for 20 years. When his good friend W. Edward Bohrer, Jr. died in office in 1998, Katz was appointed mayor. He has been elected three times since then.

Mayor Katz's proudest accomplishment, which he says he willingly shares with others, is that Gaithersburg has remained debt free. As for the legacy he would like to leave to the City, the Mayor says he would like to be remembered as "somebody who truly loves Gaithersburg. That's the reason I got involved," he says, "and I'd like to be remembered for that."

Olde Towne Today and Tomorrow

Adding Spirit and Spice to the City

This is the first in a series of articles profiling Gaithersburg's neighborhoods.

by Jeanne North

On the day before Thanksgiving, Nader Saleh was in his Chicken Basket restaurant on North Summit Avenue in Gaithersburg, supervising the roasting more than 50 20-pound turkeys – for the ninth straight year. Saleh and a corps of 80 volunteers spent the holiday serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to all who showed up at Gaithersburg Elementary School across the street. It is, says Saleh, a way of giving back to the community. “I love Gaithersburg,” he says, “I truly believe in this community.”

An immigrant from Lebanon, Saleh came to the U.S. because it is “the dreamland” where “the sky’s the limit.” He started out as a dishwasher when he first arrived in Gaithersburg in 1989, earned a business degree at Montgomery College,



Chicken Basket owner Nader Saleh prepares the turkey dinners he donates to Gaithersburg's needy.

then eight years ago took over as owner of the Chicken Basket.

Saleh is known in the City for his community spirit. On the wall of the Chicken Basket is a 2006 “Person of Character Award” from the City of Gaithersburg in recognition of his “consistent modeling of the ideals of the CHARACTER COUNTS! program.” And his restaurant was named Gaithersburg’s Outstanding Organization in 2002.

Gaithersburg has a long tradition of entrepreneurial activity, and many of today’s immigrants are following that tradition. When Benjamin Gaither settled near the intersection of today’s Diamond and Frederick Avenues, sometime before 1800, he opened the kinds of enterprises that travelers and locals needed: a blacksmith shop, a store, a tavern.

As settlers moved in, agriculture thrived. Early on tobacco was the favored crop; later, in the early 1800’s, farmers switched to corn and wheat, and since these grains needed to be processed, gristmills sprang up throughout the region. Stagecoach service from Georgetown to Rockville and beyond allowed for the delivery of the cash crop to Georgetown and the return of supplies.



Bowmans Mill in the 1980's.



The Award-Winning Granary Row today

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Olde Towne Today and Tomorrow

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The arrival of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1873 made Gaithersburg a thriving trade center for upper Montgomery County. The Gaithersburg Milling and Manufacturing Company was established in 1891, eventually bringing a flour mill, grain elevator, fertilizer mixing plant and cannery to town. Evidence of this industry remains: the very buildings that were the hub of activity in Gaithersburg's agricultural heyday today house modern business activities: offices, stores and restaurants. The Bowman Mill, renamed "Granary Row," won the 1997 Merit Award by the Maryland Society of American Institute of Architects.

Eventually the area around the intersection of Summit and Diamond Avenues became known as "Olde Towne." Today joining the descendants of early settlers are recent immigrants from all over the world:

the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and Asia. The Thai and African restaurants, the Guatemalan bakery, the Latino markets – all are examples of the ethnic richness of the Olde Towne neighborhood scene.

Now the City, with input from Gaithersburg residents, is midway through a plan for the revitalization of Olde Towne, working toward the creation of a livable, vibrant, people-friendly urban center that honors the City's heritage while allowing further opportunity for growth.

Like immigrant Nader Saleh, longtime Gaithersburg resident John Roddy lauds his home town. "I like the government," he says; "I think the Mayor and the Council are good. ...It's been a great place to raise children. I fully appreciate living where I do." ■

To learn more about the history of Gaithersburg visit the Museums of Olde Towne, featuring:

- Permanent and Rotating Exhibits
- Model Train Layout
- Outdoor History Park
- Gift Shops
- Tours by Appointment

**Gaithersburg
Community Museum**
Thur. – Sat., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
9 South Summit Ave.
301-258-6160

**Gaithersburg-
Washington Grove
Fire Museum**
Sat. Only, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
13 East Diamond Ave.
301-646-1222

www.gaithersburgmd.gov/museum

Community Partners Work Together to Make a Difference

In the Fall, 2006 issue of the *Communiqué*, Gaithersburg announced the expansion of the successful "Cops in Shops" program, aimed at curbing underage drinking and increasing education and awareness about serving alcohol to habitual drinkers. When presented a summary report, City Manager David Humpton remarked, "This has been a very effective program on many different levels, and based on its success I've asked staff to include the Gaithersburg Business Alliance program in the City's FY 2008 budget for continued implementation."

Over the past several months, City and County police worked in partnership to conduct random "Cops in Shops" details with "Extra Eyes" volunteers. The selected businesses were primarily those with off-

Business Alliance Partners

City of Gaithersburg Police
Gaithersburg City Manager's Office
Montgomery County Police
(6th District)
Extra Eyes Volunteers
(City Residents)
Montgomery County Department
of Liquor Control
Board of License Commissioners
State and County Highway Safety
Maryland Hospitality Education
Foundation
The Century Council

sale licenses. Thanks to the dedication of the community volunteers and officers, eight operations were conducted throughout the City, with a total of forty-six offenses cited.

The program, originally launched in 2004, was designed to be much more than enforcement, however. Outreach and education were provided to business owners and employees, reinforcing how to responsibly sell alcohol. Twelve business operators agreed to meet with the Alliance's technical advisor, who reviewed best practices. In addition, 17 employees from four different establishments attended alcohol awareness training to further explore the issues of over service of alcohol.

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Gaithersburg in Winter — A Visit to the Arts Barn

A Place to be Inspired

by Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin

Art in all its forms is flourishing in Gaithersburg. This winter, explore the Gaithersburg Arts Barn to enjoy a multitude of programs that stimulate your senses and whet your appetite for the arts. Whether you or your child want to learn to paint, quilt, make stained glass, watch upscale theater, enjoy art exhibits, or shop for unique hand-crafted items, you don't have to travel far to get a good dose of culture.

For those who want to experience live theatrical performances in an intimate 99-seat venue, renowned metro area playhouses are partnering with the Arts Barn to stage a variety of winter productions, including Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Complete History of America* (abridged) and *Nunsense*.

What truly distinguishes the Arts Barn, though, are its Artists in Residence. These artisans have helped make the Barn a renowned place of creative and inspired learning.

Started in 2002 when the Arts Barn opened its doors, the program provides artists with studio space at modest rent. In return, artists are asked to provide 40 hours



Stained Glass Artist Tony Glander with a work in progress.

of community service each month, teaching, giving lectures and holding open studio hours where people can ask questions of the artists while working on their own projects.

As a young boy, stained glass artist Tony Glander remembers his craftsman father teaching him and his siblings how to design, mend and build things on their own, the foundation of Tony's work in glass. He studied Biology at Frostburg University but took art classes, influenced by a roommate who was majoring in Art.

After graduating from college, Tony moved back to Rockville and became interested in stained glass, learning how to design and cut at a workshop and retail store in Olde Towne Gaithersburg. The shop was put up for sale in 1990, and Tony bought the studio. He started taking workshops and attending conferences, learning from master stained glass artists and inviting them to do weekend workshops in his store. Today, Tony teaches the art of making stained glass at the Arts Barn and receives commissions for a wide variety of stained glass objects including kitchen cabinets, sculptures and chandeliers.



"The Arts Barn in Winter" by Art Instructor Howard Cohen.

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Gaithersburg in Winter

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Lauren Kingsland is an inspiration to those who have studied the sciences but have always been passionate about artistic endeavor. She started embroidering and sewing at a very young age with her mother and grandmother. In college she studied Mathematics and Greek at Stephens College, Missouri, and took a color theory class. When she graduated, she got involved in quilting and quilting groups.

Lauren moved to the DC area, where she continued the art of quilting while starting a Masters Degree in Computer Science. One day in 1986, Lauren went to see an exhibit by painter Frank Stella at the National Gallery of Art. She marveled at the concentric square patterns and progressions of colors that she knew could be incorporated into quilting patterns and designs. "I had a moment of epiphany as I saw that I could make something like that and use the quilt as an artistic medium, extending the domestic textile."

Lauren now teaches and makes quilts for a living, having developed a distinct geometric and kaleidoscopic style, with quilts displayed in collections throughout the U.S. and Japan. Recently Lauren pub-



Quilt Artist Lauren Kingsland (right) with student Marilyn Curry.

lished a book on how to make a quilt out of favorite t-shirts. She works on commissioned pieces, teaches, and is also active in a variety of community organizations including in the Children's Inn Art Program at the National Institute of Health.

For a full and updated listing of classes, performances and art shows at the Arts Barn visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn or see page 24 of this edition of the Leisure Times. ■

The Race to Beat the Snow

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"It's tough," says DeBord. "We don't have enough people to have two separate crews. These guys (and women) get breaks for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but the job can be quite long." It takes six to eight hours for the plows to give one pass to the 88 miles

of City streets. Depending on the nature of the storm, most streets will be plowed several times, with crews working 'round the clock until they're all cleared.

Snow plowing isn't all the Public Works Department employees do. They are in charge of maintaining all city facilities, they

review sediment control, storm water management and site plans for developments, and they provide a range of services from recycling and street sweeping to maintenance of the City's fleet of vehicles. (See box on page 7.) ■

City offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

New Year's Day
Monday, January 1

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Monday, January 15

President's Day
Monday, February 19

Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov for complete details.



EVENTS

Winter Bridal Showcase

Sun., Jan. 7, Noon – 4 p.m., Kentlands Mansion

Indoor Flea Markets

Sat., Jan. 20, Feb. 17, and Mar. 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Montgomery County Fairgrounds

School's Out For The Arts Featuring Michael Rosman - Amazing Feats of Comedy

Mon., Jan 22, 1 p.m., Arts Barn

Valentine Variety Family Fun Night

Fri., Feb. 2, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Activity Center at Bohrer Park

Champagne & Chocolate Tea

Sun., Feb. 11, 7 - 9 p.m., Kentlands Mansion

Gourmet Wine Pairing Dinner

Fri., Feb. 23, 7 p.m., Kentlands Mansion

7th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Sat., Mar. 17, 10 a.m., Washingtonian Center



THEATER

All performances at the Arts Barn unless otherwise noted. See listings on page 24 of this edition of the Leisure Times for details.

Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* presented by Bel Cantanti.

Fri. & Sat., Jan. 5 & 6, 8 p.m.

The Complete History of America (abridged) presented by Montgomery Playhouse. Weekends, Jan. 19 – Feb. 11, Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.

Nunsense presented by Sandy Spring Theatre Group
Weekends, Feb. 16 – Mar. 4, Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.

The Wizard of Oz presented by American Family Theater
Sun., Feb. 25, Performances at 2 & 4 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School

The Dining Room presented by KAT 2nd Stage
Weekends Mar. 16 – Apr. 1, Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.



Community Partners Work Together to Make a Difference


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Referral and outreach for habitual drinkers was a new strategy in the 2006 initiative. Police officers referred individuals to Gaithersburg's Homeless Advocate and Clinical Supervisor, who in turn attempted to engage these individuals in addiction treatment and other life-saving services. Thus far two homeless individuals have entered treatment. One of those indi-

viduals completed the initial treatment and is now a resident of the City's Wells/Robertson House program.

"This multi-pronged approach is yet another example of the City fostering strong partnerships among residents, businesses and government to address community concerns," said Crystal Carr,

Gaithersburg's Director of Human Services. "Through effective collaborations, challenges can be overcome and positive change can occur." For more information please contact the Human Services Division at 301-258-6395. ■



"If I Were Mayor..."

2007 Essay Contest

Open to 4th Grade Students Throughout Maryland

This year's topic:

What would you do to educate the youth in your community about municipal government and how would you get young people involved?

One winner will be chosen from each of the 11 regional Maryland Municipal League districts and a Gaithersburg winner will also be selected.

Deadline is April 1

For contest rules and more information call 301-258-6395
or visit the Human Services page at www.gaithersburgmd.gov